

## Maryland Dairy Group Disputes Environmentalists Call For A Moratorium On Large Farming Operations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Maryland Dairy Industry Association (MDIA) has contacted state lawmakers in Annapolis to register its opposition to the Sierra Club's recent call for a moratorium on large-scale farm operations.

The Sierra Club, an environmental and wilderness protection group, launched advertisement in several Maryland media markets as part of a \$8 million national ad campaign to cap the size of "corporate farms." The ads also denounce the use of plant and animal standardization through "genetic manipulation."

"The Sierra Club stands for some worthy causes, but they are terribly misinformed on this issue," said MDIA President Myron Wilhide of Detour, MD.

"This latest assault on sus-

tainable agriculture does nothing to recognize the daily contributions that agriculture makes to Maryland's economy. This includes not only producers and the seed and equipment dealers that supply them, but retail outlets, as well. Take away farmland and you can bet those open spaces will suddenly become ripe for development. Placing growth restrictions on producers is nothing short of un-American."

Sierra Club media spots targeting Hagerstown, Salisbury, Westminster, and other rural media markets urge Maryland Governor Glendening and state lawmakers to place moratoriums on the construction or expansion of large-scale farms. MDIA, as well as most members of the General Assembly, are on record in opposition to this cap.

"MDIA welcomes innovative methods to create a cooperative balance between producer efficiency, profitability, and the preservation of our natural resources," said Wilhide. "MDIA's most recent commitment to environmental safety stems from our efforts to ensure producer input with the state's nutrient management regulations. What we cannot abide by are unwarranted attacks, leveled without any credible scientific merit, which seek to dismantle one of the foundations of our national economy."

"In Maryland, most of these so-called "corporate" farms the ads refer to actually consist of relatives combining individual operations to form a larger entity. Without these large-scale producers, many of whom are dedicated land preservationists,

## ADADC Mid East Hires Communication Intern

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mid East welcomes Nichole Meabon to its promotion staff as a communication intern.

Throughout the 12 week internship, Meabon's responsibilities will include writing articles and press releases, designing newsletters and promotion materials, assisting in the coordinating and developing of activities at industry events in

Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, working with TV, print, and radio media for coverage of special events and serving as a representative on behalf of the association.

Meabon is currently a junior at Penn State University, with a major in journalism. Born and raised on a 520-acre dairy farm in Erie, Pennsylvania, she has a strong connection to the agricultural industry. Meabon served as the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess in 1997.

"I am thrilled to join the ADADC Mid East staff this summer and look forward to utilizing the knowledge this internship will provide," says Meabon. "All of the hands-on experience will be extremely beneficial in the future."

The American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mid East is the farmer-funded organization that implements advertising, marketing, promotion and nutrition education on behalf of dairy farmers in Ohio, West Virginia and the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

the diversity and productivity of our agricultural economy would be in jeopardy. Let's not become captive to a media blitz predicated upon counter-productive rhetoric," he said.

MDIA urges its members and other agricultural producers, processors, and retailers to voice their objections on the moratorium issue by contacting Governor Parris Glendening's office toll-free at 1/800-811-8336. For additional information on MDIA's position, please contact their administrative office in Washington, D.C. at 202/293-0476.

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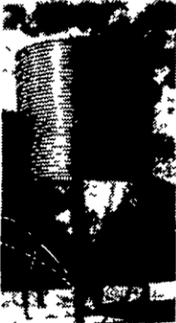
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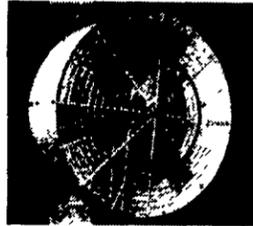
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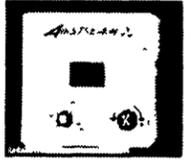


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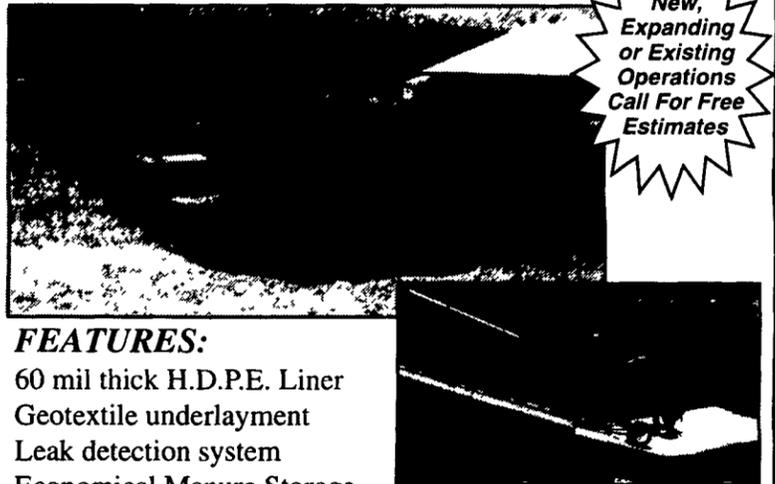
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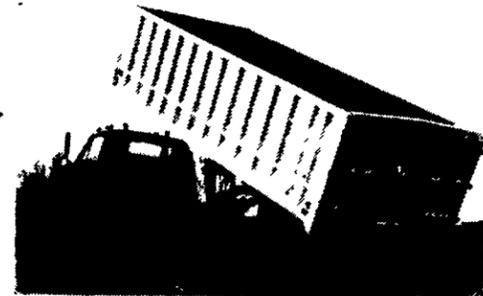


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